

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 APRIL 1983

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi Missile Attack — The Iraqis fired three missiles at Dezful, killing 10 people and wounding 60 others, IRNA reported on 20 April. In a message broadcast by Tehran radio, Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i said Iran would not retaliate against Iraqi civilians but would use its right of "legitimate defense" to respond to "this brutal aggression and savage attack." While Khamene'i denied that Iran has shelled Iraqi civilian areas, an Iraqi communique carried earlier by INA said the Iranians continued to shell Basra and Mandali.

Islamic Mediation — The Islamic conference which recently convened in Baghdad is "doomed to failure" and is a "caricature to help Saddam's efforts to gain some kind of religious prestige," Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi declared in a Tehran radio interview. When a regime that has worked against Islam for many years convenes an Islamic conference, "other plots could be hidden behind this," Musavi warned. Meanwhile, INA reported that the "peace and reconciliation committee" set up by the conference had requested permission to visit Iran and also called on Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to stop media campaigns while mediation efforts are under way. At a Baghdad press conference reported by INA, the Iraqi culture and information minister announced that Iraq agrees in advance to any decisions the conference may adopt. He reaffirmed Iraq's readiness to cease fire if Iran also agrees to end the fighting.

Oil Slick Talks

Iran has withdrawn its agreement to attend an emergency meeting of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment in Muscat on 26 April, KUNA reported.

Lebanon

Salim Press Conference — Foreign Minister Elie Salim, speaking at a press conference reported by Beirut radio, cautioned against anyone trying to "exploit" the recent bombing of the U.S. Embassy for political ends. He asserted that such tragedies could be prevented only when Lebanon fully regains authority over all its territory and when its security becomes exclusively the concern of the Lebanese themselves. Lebanon cannot be fully responsible for its security so long as foreign forces are occupying its territory, he added. Salim said the negotiations with Israel are proceeding slowly and stressed that the Lebanese question should not be linked to any other issue in the Middle East.

Tripartite Negotiations — Israel insists on its demand that Major Sa'd Haddad head the territorial brigade in southern Lebanon, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told presidential envoy Philip Habib, according to IDF Radio. Another issue still to be resolved at the talks is the role of the UNIFIL forces in ensuring security in southern Lebanon, the radio said.

Security Situation — Two Israeli soldiers and all four members of a "terrorist gang" were killed in a clash south of the Beirut-Damascus Highway, Jerusalem radio reported on 21 April.

Arab Reaction to Bombing — Asserting that Israel has "exploited" the U.S. Embassy bombing to support its demands in Lebanon, Damascus radio said in a commentary that the Israelis are the "only party" benefiting from the attack, which came "as if recommended by them." Allegations of possible Israeli involvement continued from various Middle Eastern sources. "It has become certain" that Israel's hand was behind the blast, according to the Jordanian paper AR-RA'Y as quoted by Amman radio. A Riyadh radio commentary claimed that the "dirty figures of the Mosad are the real planners and executors" of the deed.

PLO Affairs

After meeting with Hungarian leader Janos Kadar in Budapest, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat flew to Bucharest for talks with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, according to Budapest radio and AGERPRES. 'Arafat agreed with the Hungarians and Romanians that Middle East peace talks should occur within the framework of an international conference attended by all parties concerned, including the PLO, the sources noted. At a press conference in Hungary reported by Budapest radio, 'Arafat denied that the PLO had received any ultimatum from Jordan last month and said the PLO respects the Jordanian view, "although we do not accept it." He claimed the question of Palestinian representation was not discussed during his talks with King Husayn. Asked about the planned emergency Arab summit conference, 'Arafat said the summit should occur "within the next month" and should concentrate on preparing against a new military attack.

The PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) issued a joint statement in Damascus criticizing attempts to convene an Arab summit aimed at "relinquishing" previous summit resolutions on Palestinian rights and announcing that the PFLP and DFLP will firmly oppose any retreat from the recent PNC resolutions, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The statement also called for rectifying Palestinian-Syrian relations and for reviving the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front.

Earlier, a Palestinian official cited by the Kuwaiti paper Al-WATAN said PLO-Syrian coordination has intensified as a result of the imminence of a battle with Israel in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' valley. During his recent tour of PLO positions in Al-Biqa', PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir said the PLO and Lebanese resistance have decided to develop the quality and quantity of their guerrilla operations against the IDF, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio noted.

Israel

Israel is to seek "clarifications" from the United States about President Reagan's recent letter to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad reportedly urging negotiations for Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights, according to THE JERUSALEM POST. Despite assurances from Washington that the letter merely reiterated long-standing American policy, Israeli officials are "uneasy" about the letter, which they believe may be an opening to expand the peace talks to embrace the Golan issue, the paper added. Israel still rejects the idea of exchanging territory for peace, Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Meir said, according to Jerusalem radio, and he expressed hope that the United States will realize that the uprooting of Israeli settlers in the occupied territories is "inconceivable."

Libya

Arrested West Germans — After the FRG ambassador in Tripoli visited eight detained West Germans accused of espionage, an FRG Foreign Ministry spokesman said Libya has not yet informed the FRG of the charges against them, DPA reported.

Al-Qadhdhafi on Brazil Incident — Colonel Mu'ammad al-Qadhdhafi expressed "regret" that the Libyan official in charge of civil aviation dishonestly failed to inform Brazil about the contents of the Libyan aircraft which stopped in Brazil on their way to Nicaragua, according to JANA. Asserting that "imperialism and Zionism" are trying to exploit the incident to disrupt Libyan-Brazilian relations, Al-Qadhdhafi said Libya has never concealed its support for Nicaragua.

Saharan Conflict— Calling for a "balanced" U.S. policy between the SDAR and Morocco, the Polisario declared itself ready for talks with the United States for a future of "peace and mutual trust," according to an SDAR communique reported by Algiers radio.

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UN Talks on Afghan Issue Continue in Geneva

*BK210539 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT
21 Apr 83*

[Text] The UN-sponsored indirect talks on finding a political solution to the Afghan problem continued in Geneva for the 8th day yesterday. The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, continued a series of separate meetings with the Pakistan and the Babrak Karmal regime delegations.

ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, quoting informed sources, said modalities to be adopted by Cordovez for consultations with the Afghan refugees were the specific points of discussion yesterday. The talks are likely to conclude tomorrow. The UN sources said there is no possibility of any extension in this second round of talks, as was indicated by the UN secretary general's personal representative before the beginning of yesterday's talks.

Council Presidium Official Leaves for Maputo

*LD201826 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT
20 Apr 83*

[Text] Brigadier General Gol Aqa, member of the PDPA Central Committee and vice president of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium, left for Maputo this morning. He has been invited by the Central Committee of the Mozambique Liberation Front [Frelimo] to take part in its fourth party congress.

'Abdorrashid Arian, member of the PDPA Central Committee and vice chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council; members of the Council of Ministers; the deputy minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the director of the Party Central Committee International Relations Department saw him off at Kabul Airport.

Kabul Court Sentences Eight for Bomb Explosion

*LD191732 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto and Dari 1245 GMT
19 Apr 83*

[Text] Kabul, 19 Apr (BAKHTAR) — Eight counterrevolutionary elements, accused of exploding two bombs in the market located on the ground floor of the pension fund building near Pamir movie theater which resulted in 4 people killed, 34 others injured and losses totalling more than 11 million afghanis, were sentenced in several sessions of the special revolutionary court to various terms of punishment according to the DRA penal code and in proportion to the crimes committed.

The BAKHTAR correspondent quotes a source of the special revolutionary court that a number of counterrevolutionary elements committed barbaric and inhuman crimes by exploding two bombs in the market of the pension fund building on 24 November 1982, at 1900. This crime again exposed the inhuman nature of the counterrevolutionaries.

Those who committed this crime were captured one after another, together with their destructive weapons and propaganda documents which proved their relationship with anti-April Revolution groups, by the consistent efforts of the heroic security forces.

The relevant dossiers on the accused were completed after comprehensive investigation and were sent for decisions to the special revolutionary court. The judicial board of the special revolutionary court, after hearing the prosecutor's case and the accused's defense, and the testimony of witnesses, discussed the case during several sessions. Finally, during today's session, the court's decision on the eight accused was announced in consideration of the rule of law, the confession of the accused, their civil circumstances and the degree of responsibility of each one of them.

According to the decision of the judicial board of the special revolutionary court the accused were sentenced as follows: Ghowsoddin, alias Zabet, son of Mohammadoddin and the chief culprit, sentenced to death; his accomplices in the crime, Rajab Ali, son of Khan Ali, 20 years imprisonment; and Mohammad Ghazi, alias Naser, son of Mohayoddin, 18 years imprisonment.

The other defendants: Abdorrahman, son of Rahmatboy, 10 years imprisonment; Sayed Fazlollah, son of Sayed Habibollah, 7 years imprisonment; Yaqob, son of Sayed Ahmadsah, and Moharam Ali, son of Mastan Ali, each to 6 years imprisonment; and Gholam Hazrat, son of Hayderqol, to 5 years imprisonment in a rehabilitation center.

The source added that, in addition, six assorted weapons together with ammunition captured by the security forces from the accused, have been confiscated according to Articles 227 and 119 of the penal code. Also the accused, in consideration of the terms of their imprisonment, have additionally been ordered to pay compensation for the material losses suffered in this incident.

The decision of the special revolutionary court is final, except for the death sentence which will be carried out after approval by the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium in accordance with Article 58 of the DRA basic principles.

Karachi Reports Soviets Bomb Own Positions

*BK210321 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT
21 Apr 83*

[Text] According to reports, Soviet Air Force planes bombarded their own positions in Nimruz Province of Afghanistan in a bid to end the siege of the Soviet-Karmal forces by the Afghan mujahidin, killing 60 Soviet soldiers and destroying 20 tanks and armored vehicles. The Afghan mujahidin had besieged the (?Kang)subdivisional headquarters east of Zabol between 8 and 11 April.

Reportage on Malaysian Prime Minister's Visit**Ershad, Mahathir Talks***BK191549 Dhaka BSS in English 1135 GMT 19 Apr 83*

[Text] Dhaka, April 19, BSS — Formal talks between Bangladesh and Malaysia here today were marked by complete identity of views on bilateral, regional and international matters.

The chief martial law administrator, Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad and the Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohammad led their respective delegations to the talks. The foreign ministers of the two countries were present during the talks.

A Foreign Office spokesman said that the talks covered Kampuchea, Afghanistan, Iran-Iraq war, west Asia and Namibia, besides the bilateral issues.

General Ershad and Dr. Mahathir held discussions exclusively for sometime before joining the formal talks.

Bangladesh and Malaysia signed two agreements — one on maritime transport and the other on avoidance of double taxation.

Joint Communique Cited*BK210345 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 20 Apr 83*

[Text] Malaysia and Bangladesh have agreed on the early convening of the joint committee for strengthening cooperation in the economic and technical fields. This was stated in a joint communique issued tonight on the conclusion of Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir bin Mohammad's official visit to Bangladesh. The two countries expressed their resolve to expand existing bilateral cooperation. The Malaysian prime minister expressed his deep appreciation for the services of a number of Bangladesh nationals to Malaysia and for providing academic and training facilities for Malaysian students in Bangladesh.

The chief Martial law administrator [CMLA], Lt Gen H.M. Ershad, expressed his thanks for the offer of assistance under the Malaysian cooperation program. He also noted with satisfaction the assistance already provided to Bangladesh.

The communique said during the formal talks, Dr Mahathir and Gen Ershad expressed their desire to explore all avenues to intensify efforts for further cooperation in various fields including manpower, agriculture, industries, trade and joint ventures. The CMLA apprised the visiting prime minister on the progress achieved so far in promoting structured South Asian regional cooperation on the basis of sovereign equality and mutual benefit. The Malaysian prime minister expressed his admiration for the Bangladesh's initiative and said it would contribute to the betterment of the quality of life in the South Asian region.

The two countries reiterated their stand on Kampuchea, Vietnam and Afghan problems and said foreign forces from Kampuchea and Afghanistan must be pulled out and their peoples be allowed to determine their future freely without any outside interference. Malaysia and Bangladesh renewed their support to United Nations declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

The Malaysian prime minister extended an invitation to the chief martial law administrator, Lt Gen H.M. Ershad, to visit Malaysia, which was accepted.

Addressing a news conference in Dhaka this afternoon, Dr Mahathir bin Mohammad said his visit was very useful and satisfying. It will lead to further strengthening of relations between the two countries in respect of bilateral cooperation. He expressed the hope that they will continue to work in close cooperation in different international forums. Dr Mahathir said the private sector delegation accompanying him was exploring the possibilities of Malaysian investment in Bangladesh. He thanked Bangladesh for offering seats in medical colleges for Malaysian students. The Malaysian prime minister expressed his gratitude to the people and the Government of Bangladesh for extending warm hospitality and brotherly affection to him, his wife and the members of his entourage.

Mahathir Leaves for Sri Lanka*BK210649 Dhaka BSS in English 0619 GMT 21 Apr 83*

[Text] Dhaka, Apr 21 (BSS) — Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohammad left this morning for Sri Lanka concluding his four-day official visit to Bangladesh.

Dr. Mahathir, who arrived here Monday as the first Malaysian head of government to visit Bangladesh on the first-leg of his three-nation South Asian tour, held talks with the president of the Council of Ministers, Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad, on matters relating to bilateral, regional and international interest. Both Mahathir and Ershad expressed satisfaction at the positive development of cordial relations between the two countries in all fields and reaffirmed their determination to broaden the scope of cooperation. Bangladesh and Malaysia signed two agreements — maritime transport and avoidance of double taxation — during Dr. Mahathir's visit.

Bangladesh and Malaysia in a communique issued yesterday expressed concern at the deterioration of international situation which has posed a threat peace, security and stability in the South and South East Asian region and the world.

Gen. Ershad and Begum Ershad saw off the Malaysian prime minister and his wife, Datin Sri Dr. Siti Hasmah, at the Zia International Airport. Foreign Minister Tan Sri M. Ghazalibin Shafie accompanied the prime minister.

Akali Dal Wants Amicable Solution in Punjab

*BK201415 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT
20 Apr 83*

[Text] Akali Dal President Sant Harchand Singh Longowal has said that his party desires an amicable solution to the Punjab problem and does not favor a conflict unnecessarily. Sant Longowal was talking to newsmen in Amritsar today on a statement of Union Home Minister P.C. Sethi in parliament that Prime Minister Gandhi has no hesitation in having discussions with him for finding a solution of the Akali Dal demand.

Five Killed in Group Clash in Assam 19 April

*BK210258 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
21 Apr 83*

[Text] In Assam, five persons, including one woman, were killed and 20 others were injured in a group clash in (Bokahola), a village near (Kharang) in Dibrugarh District on Tuesday night. According to official reports received in Gauhati, several houses were also set on fire by a group of people who attacked the village with lethal weapons. Security arrangements in the area have been tightened and reinforcements rushed in. Senior police and civil officials have visited the area.

Research Underway in Enriched Uranium Production

*BK201124 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
20 APR 83*

[Text] Research is on to produce enriched uranium by the latest centrifuge and laser technologies. This is confined to academic experiments and there is no immediate plan to go in for large-scale use of these technologies.

This was disclosed by Prime Minister Gandhi in reply to questions in the Lok Sabha today. She said whatever amount of enriched uranium we are importing is being done in a dignified manner. Imported enriched uranium is being utilized for generating electricity.

Answering supplementaries, the minister of state for science and technology, Shivraj Patil, told the house that the present policy lays stress on utilization of indigenously available natural uranium and heavy water to generate atomic energy. The country has adequate natural uranium which will last beyond 2000 AD the minister also informed the house that the Rajasthan atomic plant is not using imported uranium.

Defense Minister on Mirage-2000, MIG-27

*BK201557 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
20 Apr 83*

[Text] The Mirage-2000 is to be inducted into the Indian Air Force [IAF] next year. This was announced by Defense Minister Venkataraman while addressing the Air Force commanders conference in New Delhi today. The defense minister said a new tactical strike aircraft, MIG-27, will come up for production in the Hindustan Aeronautics in the near future. The IAF has also acquired new weapons systems of current generation like air-to-air and air-to-surface guided missiles besides precision munitions.

Ziaul Haq Cites 'Good Progress' in Afghan Talks

BK201652 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
20 Apr 83

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that reports so far on the UN-sponsored Geneva talks on the Afghanistan issue are encouraging.

Addressing a packed news conference in Karachi this afternoon, he said that during the talks there has been some flexibility as well as some rigidity. However, as a whole, there has been good progress. He said what is now being discussed is the timetable and method for implementation of four principles for the settlement of the issue.

Answering a question on the Indian propaganda that Pakistan is purchasing AWACS, the president said Pakistan has limited resources and it cannot afford to buy such costly aircraft. He said Pakistan desires friendly relations with India and other neighboring countries.

When his attention was drawn to Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi's statement, in which she said war clouds are hovering over South Asia, the president said there is no need for any comment on this statement. He said that as far as Pakistan is concerned, its defense forces are engaged in routine training in garrison.

When asked whether the Indian satellite will pose any danger to Pakistan's defense installations, the president: It is only a communication satellite and Pakistani scientists are aware of the defense needs of the country.

The president reiterated that he does not intend to form a local bodies electoral college. He said that the upcoming local bodies elections will be held on a nonpartisan basis and their nonpartisan character will be have constitutional protection. Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq reiterated that the announcement on the political set up will be made by 14 August of this year, not in June, as reported in some newspapers. It will also be taken into consideration in the political setup whether the next general elections will be held on partisan or nonpartisan bases. He clarified that neither he nor his colleagues have any intention of forming a political party. The president said politics are necessary for every country and there cannot be any political activity without political parties. However, there is no place for the politics of chaos in Pakistan. Our politics should be based on Islamic principles.

When the president's attention was drawn to the statements made by the leaders of some defunct political parties, which were published in newspapers, he said that under martial law there is

a complete ban on political activities and political statements. However, his government has been taking a lenient attitude in this regard. He expressed the hope that these leaders will not try to achieve their selfish interests by hampering the interests of Pakistan.

The president said that the nationalized industrial units, which are running at loss, are to be returned to their rightful owners, provided they are willing to take them back. Otherwise, these units will be handed over to other parties in the private sector. He said orders have been issued for the return of [words indistinct] two units in Lahore to the private sector. The president announced tax relief for the units to be set up in Sukkur industrial areas. He has already announced tax exemption for the [words indistinct] units in Thar Parkar District. The president said Karachi is the biggest industrial, commercial, and cultural center and that is why this city should be an example of brotherhood and tolerance for the entire nation. He warned that as an example, punishment will be given to those who incite religious feelings.

Giving his impressions on his 4-day visit to interior areas of Sind, the president said that the love for Islam and Pakistan expressed by the people is very heartwarming. He said that during his current visit, he met with thousands of people and a number of notables. He also assessed the law and order situation, [words indistinct] issues and the functioning of local bodies and zakat committees and took steps to rectify the shortcomings noted in this regard. The president categorically stated that he did not make any political speeches during the visit.

Guinea-Bissau Foreign Minister Begins Visit

BK191600 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
19 Apr 83

[Text] A Guinea-Bissau delegation led by its foreign minister arrived in Islamabad this evening. The delegation leader told newsmen that the aim of their visit is to increase economic cooperation between the two countries. He said both countries can have fruitful and objective cooperation in various sectors.

He commended Pakistani efforts toward the settlement of the Afghan issue and establishment of peace in the region. He said Pakistan has to bear a heavy burden in taking care of the Afghan refugees. The delegation leader said he has brought with him a message from his country's president for President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan welcomed the Guinea-Bissau foreign minister at the airport.

Iraqi Missiles Attack City of Dezful 20 April

GF201738 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, April 20 IRNA — The city of Dezful in Khuzestan Province was attacked by three Iraqi missiles at 18:00 hours today. According to a Tehran radio broadcast the inhuman Iraqi attack has caused casualties and damages to the civilians of the city. Precise figures on casualties and damages were not immediately known, however.

The senseless Iraqi forces launched three missile attacks against the heroic city of Dezful Wednesday between 18:00 to 18:10 hours.

Radio Tehran which reported the attack said that there was yet no information on the extent of damages or casualties.

Dezful has been attacked numerous times by Iraqi missiles and aircraft since the imposed war began in Sep 1980. On the last attack which occurred on Dec 19, 1982, some 62 civilians were martyred and 287 others were wounded.

The head of the war information headquarters, Dr Kamal Kharrazi, had warned in an interview on April 14 that Iraq plans to attack the Iranian border towns with its Frog missiles after innumerable previous commissions (bombardments) and it now wants to justify its upcoming crimes by falsely claiming that Iran was everyday shelling its towns, thus making up for its ignominious defeat in the Wal Fajr operation launched by Iran (on April 10).

Other major Iraqi attacks on civilian quarters in various Iranian towns since Feb 1982 are as follows:

— Feb 17, 1982: Twenty civilians were martyred and thirty others were wounded after an Iraqi air attack on Islamabad-e Gharb, in Bakhtaran (formerly Kermanshahan) Province.

— April 4: An air strike by Iraqi jet-fighters against civilian areas of Dezful, which was witnessed by visiting foreign reporters, martyred 3 and wounded 58 others.

— June 5: Iraqi fighters, bombed a demonstration in Ilam (Ilam Province) martyring at least 40 and wounding 200 others.

— July 14: Iraqi aircraft attacked residential areas in Khorramabad (Lurestan Province), Ilam (Ilam Province) and Bakhtaran (Bakhtaran Province), during which 370 people were wounded and 50 others were martyred.

— July 16: Iraqi aircraft attacked an open air prayers ceremony in Hamadan (Hamadan Province), martyring at least 69 and wounding nearly 590.

The attack on Dezful today is an effort by Saddam Husayn to boost the moral of its Armed Forces who recently received a hard blow from the Islamic forces in the Wal Fajr operation (began April 10). The operation, carried out north of the small border town of Fakeh, in Khuzestan Province, achieved the following results:

— Some 150 kms of Iranian territory were liberated.

— More than 8,500 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded.

— More than 350 Iraqi troops were taken captive.

— 89 enemy tanks were destroyed.

— Large numbers of Iraqi personnel carriers and vehicles were destroyed and some were seized undamaged.

— Five enemy helicopters were destroyed.

— Many Iraqi brigades suffered extensive losses of personnel and equipment.

Here it is believed that today's missile attack on Dezful might have been launched from territories still under Iraqi occupation west of Dezful, namely the small border town of Fakeh.

The Iraqi aggressors are currently known to be occupying Iranian territories, including the western border town of Naftshahr (in Bakhtaran Province) and Iranian heights in the west and southern border regions.

Casualties Reported

LD202027 Tehran IRNA in English 2000 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Dezful, April 20, IRNA — Criminal Iraqi forces fired three missiles at the city of Dezful Wednesday between 18:00 and 18:10 hours, martyring ten people and wounding 60 others.

The figure was based on findings during the first 30 minutes after the attack, and rescue workers along with the people are still digging through the rubble to bring out more possible victims. Also, 20 to 30 homes and shops were so far counted as either destroyed or badly damaged.

Khamene'i Issues Message

LD202158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Message issued by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i on 20 April in Tehran]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Heroic and brave people of Dezful, beloved brothers and sisters: Once again the abject enemy has attacked your resisting city with missiles in a foul and savage manner and dragged a number of our innocent compatriots in dust and blood. This is not the first time that the enemy forces have made up for their defeat on the front by attacking the homes of the people of the city of Dezful. You have been witnessing the foolish attacks of the enemy for about 3 years and through your unique resistance and self-sacrifices you have aroused the admiration and wonder of the world's people.

This attack has been launched at a time when the superpowers' propaganda loudspeakers are trying to introduce to the world's

people the officials of the Baghdad regime as being interested in peace and as willing to put an end to the war. This attack has been carried out when more than 2 and 1/2 years have passed since the Iraqi regime's aggression against our Islamic homeland. During this period, our combatants, with their ability to pound Iraqi cities, have not even fired a single shell against Iraqi residential and civilian areas.

Now it is the duty of all the world's liberal-minded people, all the truth-seeking governments, and all the organizations which claim to defend human rights to question the Iraqi regime for this and other similar crimes.

We declare to the world, particularly to the superpowers through whose armaments the defenseless people of our cities are being dragged in dust and blood, that our heroic nation will not resort to retaliatory actions in connection with defenseless people but will use all its right for legitimate defense, which has been stipulated by Islam and humanity for every nation, to respond to this brutal aggression and savage attack.

I congratulate and condole the lord of the era, may God hasten his noble advent, his right deputy Imam Khomeyni, may his lofty shadow be extended, and the martyr-nurturing Iranian nation, particularly the heroic people of Dezful and the martyrs' families, on the martyrdom of these beloved ones and I beg the Almighty for victory for Islam and for the combatants of the fronts of the fight between truth and falsehood, who are ready to give their lives.

Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Foreign Ministry Reacts

GF210830 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Following the recent crime of Saddam's Zionist regime with its missile attack on Dezful, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated: Once again Saddam has provided another sample of his barbarism and his defeated and destitute regime. Following the recent military defeat in the Wal Fajr operations, he has begun to retaliate and take revenge on the Muslim people and civilians of Dezful.

Firing three successive missiles on the city which has already had many, many missiles fired on it is a measure of the criminal nature of Saddam. It is also a mark of his weakness and the destruction of his military force in battle with the Islamic forces, and shows how absurd and meaningless are Saddam's peace-loving pleas to the world.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman wondered why international human rights societies and peace delegations could not see these crimes and stop the firing of three successive missiles and the killing of innocent people. We invite the sincere correspondents of the world to publish and bring to the attention of world public opinion these facts, he said. After seeing his mercenaries flee

from the brave warriors and self-sacrificing fighters of Islam on the battlefields and to cover his wretchedness and contemptuousness while talking about peace, Saddam has committed these horrible crimes. All this shows that Saddam is convinced that his fall is near. By committing such crimes, the Iraqi regime has proved that the only and the shortest way to reach a just and stable peace in the region--to bring back security, safety, and peace to the region--is through the end of this aggressive regime. Other aggressors will avoid starting and imposing war and aggression by learning from Saddam's fate.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman concluded by saying a note on this crime will be delivered to the United Nations by Iran's representative.

Reporters Invited To Inspect Areas

LD211007 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, April 21, IRNA — The war information HQ on Wednesday night invited reporters and photographers working with foreign news agencies offices in Iran to inspect the areas devastated in the Wednesday Iraqi missile attack on Dezful, south of Iran.

The Iraqi savage attack led to the martyrdom of 15 innocent people and injury of 105 others, mostly children, according to reports till 21:30 on Wednesday. Relief works are underway to find probable more bodies or save the lives of more injured entrapped under wreckage.

On this occasion all working centres and institutions closed in Dezful today and a public mourning was announced throughout Khuzestan Province.

The war information HQ announcement said that Wednesday shelling on Dezful, launched three times between 18:00 and 18:10 p.m., was in retaliation for the heavy blow Baghdad's dictator, Saddam Husayn, received in the first stage of 'Wal Fajr' operations.

Some 62 civilians were martyred and 287 others were wounded in the last Iraqi missile attack against Dezful launched on Dec. 19, 1982.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,291

LD201803 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Communique No 1,291 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The situation on the fronts of the imposed war hereby is brought to the attention of the beloved compatriots:

In the past 24 hours, the self-sacrificing and strong combatants of Islam on all western and southern fronts of the country continued the defense of our Islamic homeland's borders. By dispatching patrol groups and by opening artillery fire on the

enemy's positions and armored units and batteries, they silenced the heavy weapons' fire of the Saddamist mercenaries, brought under control and halted the activities and movements of the Iraqi forces, and inflicted losses and casualties on them.

According to reports, on the southern fronts, nine weapons and personnel trenches and observation posts of the Iraqi forces were destroyed. There is no accurate information on the Saddamist forces' casualties.

On the Marivan front, the artillery fire of the combatants of Islam inflicted considerable casualties on the Iraqi forces.

In the course of exchanges of fire on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, the trench dwellers of Islam, by silencing the fire of Iraqi forces, returned fire on the positions and fortifications of the Saddamist mercenaries, and by destroying a number of their weapons trenches and observation posts, killed a number of their servicemen.

Yesterday, the city of Abadan continued to come under the artillery and heavy weapons' fire of the Saddamist criminals, which resulted in destruction and damage to houses.

In the past 24 hours, tactical measures of the heroes of the Air Force and the gunfire of the air defense units of our Armed Forces foiled all efforts of the Iraqi Ba'athist mercenaries to violate the western and southern airspace of our country.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Velayati Discusses Regional War, Oil Slick

GF201809 Tehran IRNA in English 1657 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, April 20 IRNA — Foreign Minister Velayati has said in Tehran any war raging in the Persian Gulf will also inescapably engulf all parties concerned and first and foremost the friends of the United States in the region. Dr. Velayati who has been interviewed by the Persian Daily ETELA'AT has also said that the masterminds of the Camp David peace treaty are trying to push all of the countries of the region into a degrading compromise with Israel. The following are excerpts from an interview with the Iranian foreign minister as published in the Wednesday issue of the Persian daily.

The ruling government in Jordan functions as a broker of the United States. But fortunately King Hussein's recent efforts for representing Jordanians and Palestinians and for selling the Palestinians and the Jordanians to Israel was total failure...

But whatever efforts may be made, the peoples of the region are not likely to sit back and watch. They will resist.

(On Brzezinski's recent statement about Iran): The United States has never reconciled that it has lost Iran. But it should better remember that Iran has long since slipped away from the claws of the United States and that the country is now in the hands of the Muslim people of Iran.

(On the oil slick and the recent meeting of the Kuwait convention): We expected and we continue to expect a more clear cut approach to Iraq by member countries of the Kuwait convention. Iraq has shelled our oil wells in a blatant disregard of the U.N. conventions. According to one of these conventions belligerent countries shall not engage in any activity whereby they may cause the consequences of their acts to spread outside of their fighting area...the Kuwait convention which has been created upon the suggestion of the United Nations for safeguarding the Persian Gulf environment should protest to Iraq for this act...Iran has already declared its readiness to control the oil slick for the preservation of the Persian Gulf environment but Iraq has been undermining our efforts. The agenda of past meetings is proof of Iraq's efforts for sabotaging the conference...

We will participate in more and more international conferences every day, and will defend our rights anywhere. Our foreign policies will be greatly enhanced by our continuous participation in the international conferences.

(On the suspended meeting in Tehran between the foreign ministers of Libya, Syria and Iran): During our last session, the date for the upcoming meeting was not set up, but it was agreed that the meeting would be held in Tehran in a future time. Our agreement is all the same respected by the concerned parties. Therefore if we have not yet sat for a meeting here it is because the date for such a meeting was not anticipated in the original agreement.

Musavi Reports on 20 April Cabinet Session

LD201249 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Interview by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi with unidentified Tehran radio correspondent following 20 April Cabinet session; place not given — recorded]

[Text][Question] Mr Musavi, could you state what reports, and perhaps proposals or draft bills, were discussed in the Cabinet session?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. After recitation from the Koran and an interpretation of passages from the Nahaj al-Balaghah [quotations attributed to Imam 'Ali of Shiva], the session reviewed domestic and international reports and reports from the fronts, which were explained by the brothers concerned. We also heard reports from various provinces. We had further reports on the provinces that Mr Salamati visited recently. Certain decisions to help agriculture were adopted.

There was also discussion regarding the services rendered by the dear doctors at the fronts in the western and southern parts of the country. This was reported by Dr Manafi. There were other reports on administrative matters and such.

The Cabinet further reviewed political developments in the region relating to the situation in the area, the events taking shape in the region and the allusions made in connection with the explosion at the American Embassy in Lebanon and media efforts to attribute that to our country — which could indicate

an extensive plot, while the matter could be the result of the grave political and social tension in the region and the oppressive systems that imperialism is imposing in the area. This has nothing to do with our country. Of course, we will be able to counter this plot through our media's activity, as our officials have already stated. This is to maintain the alertness of all the nations in the region, because imperialists and their surrogates usually exploit such matters in order to continue their oppression and new plots. These are the general topics discussed at the Cabinet session.

[Question] Regarding the meeting in Baghdad of Friday imams of a number of countries and matters some officials raised at that meeting with regard to peace and the war between Iran and Iraq: What is the Islamic Republic of Iran's view of this meeting?

[Answer] For us to appreciate the nature of such meetings, we must understand the nature of the Ba'athist regime. The Ba'athist regime in Iraq is by nature godless and antireligious. In general, Ba'athism is an ideology that aims to eradicate Islam and religion across society. This is similar to what the shah's regime was trying to achieve. When a regime that has worked against Islam for many years and has been denounced and excommunicated by religious authorities, such as Ayatollah Hakim, convenes an Islamic conference, we should be alert to the fact that other plots could be hidden behind this. Praise be to God, the conference is naturally doomed to failure, thanks to the fact that all Muslim nations recognize the conference's participants. The conference could be described as a caricature to help Saddam's efforts to gain some kind of religious prestige for himself. As you know, this is impossible.

[Question] The issue of the pollution of the Persian Gulf was not conclusively resolved in the two sessions of the convention in Kuwait. There will be another session in the future, which will be attended by the countries in the region. What measures will be taken for a speedier solution of this problem?

[Answer] Our reasoning on this matter is very clear: Our country wants to stop the oil slick and the harm it is doing to our Muslim brothers in the region. The Iraqi regime should stop being stubborn and committing these crimes. We will raise the same questions in this conference as we did in the previous ones. It seems that, thanks to our delegation's explanations and the (?investigations) that have been carried out in this respect, most of the countries in the region now believe the truthfulness of what we are saying.

Naturally, the continuation of the oil slick puts more pressure on the Iraqi regime. But we should be aware of the fact that at any minute the Iraqi regime could commit a new crime, like attacking other oilfields. Naturally, if those oilfields are large, a very dangerous situation would be created for all the littoral states. It is up to the littoral states to be aware of the situation.

Here I feel it necessary to refer to the blabberings of the mass media in the region, which, quoting the Iraqi regime, are constantly alleging that Iran has bombed Basra and other cities. I strongly refute this. From the outset of the war, our method of operation has not been based on bombing residential areas. Our committed combatants have tried to refrain from firing even one

bullet at residential areas, for we believe in the Iraqi nation and the Muslim people of the region and their understanding, common sense, and awareness. We act in accordance with principles and we continue the war in accordance with the same principles. We consider all such noises as a plot, that is, the Iraqi regime intends to commit another crime using the facilities at its disposal. Doubtless, inspite of all the noise and (?planning), the Iraqi regime will not be successful.

[Question] Regarding the oil well, as the imam of the nation has said with his clear logic, Iraq hit the oil well. The oil is not flowing toward the Persian Gulf countries of its own accord. Naturally we should wait until the Iraqi regime's madness is stopped. That the issue of the oil slick has been connected to a cease-fire proves the Iraqi regime's fear and the Iraqi regime's efforts to escape its responsibility toward our nation's rights regarding the imposed war.

Official Estimates Damages at Oil Wells

GF201826 Tehran IRNA in English 1552 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, April 20 IRNA — The maximum damage inflicted on the Iranian Nowruz, Abuzar and Soroush oil wells is estimated to be 700 million to 800 million dollars. This includes the damages inflicted on various installations resulting in oil and natural gas leaks, and the destroyed establishments, announced Asghar Ibrahim, the chairman of the Iranian Continental Shelf Company today.

Ibrahim made this announcement following the recent session of the 8 member countries of the Persian Gulf environmental organisation, held in Kuwait and Bahrain. He also spoke on the political, economic, and military repercussions of the Iraqi regime's frantic act in destroying with missiles the Iranian oil fields in the Persian Gulf region. Ibrahim said estimates of the resulting damages was escalating every day and Oil Ministry of the Islamic Republic was able to speak authoritatively on figures as a result of the damages and the situation of the oil wells.

He said oil well number three was leaking 2,000 barrels of oil a day, while two burning platform docks namely those on No. 5 and No. 6 wells as well as 7, 8, 9, and 10 wells were leaking some 5,000 to 8,000 barrels of oil a day. He also said in the future the latter will leak some 10,000 barrels of oil per day, entering the waters of the Persian Gulf.

He said this does not even include the partially burning oil which is moving towards the shores of Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

Desalination plants, power companies, ports and marine life of the Persian Gulf countries, were gravely endangered since the light molecules of the oil were vaporised by sunlight and hence the remaining oil attained a heavier density, thus staying afloat in the water, and moving towards the Persian Gulf countries shores.

Stressing that the oil floating on the waters could be cleaned-up with the use of special equipment and ships, Ibrahim said the oil spread depended on the amount of oil entering the water, tem-

perature, winds, internal water currents, and the oils physical characteristics, vis-a-vis density.

Quoting Article 35 of the 1949-ratified international law, he said signatories had no right to sabotage each others' oil wells, and that the Kuwait convention articles also dictated the same thing for the 8 member countries of the Persian Gulf, stressing that all countries should pool their efforts to eliminate any polluting sources when it happens.

He said Iran and the other 7 members were paying membership fees in that connection annually.

It is the Iraqi Ba'athist regime which has been violating all the Kuwait convention principles and all international norms by missile attacking the oil wells on the U.S. orders.

In light of the Arab countries, members of the Kuwait convention which had expressed their willingness to pay the damages as a result of the oil slick he said Iran will decide in the future whether it will receive compensation from the Iraqi regime in the form of war reparations or other forms.

He said the Iranian engineers proved to their Persian Gulf counterparts in the Kuwait session that they were capable of solving the oil slick problem but the only obstacle preventing their work was security, which was threatened by Iraq, something which was accepted by all members of the session excluding Iraq.

Simultaneously with the second session of the convention's members the Iraqi regime attacked the Iranian oil wells for the second time, this time Abuzar and Soroush wells. And the Iraqi regimes representative in the session insisted on having one Iraqi working next to an Iranian for mending the leak.

The Iranian delegation announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran owned some 400 oil wells in the waters of the Persian Gulf while Iraq had none. He also said Iran enjoyed more than 20 years of export and excavation experience and hence it will never accept such a condition since the Iraqi regime was not competent to intervene in this affair. He further said Iraq's aim has been to capture Iranian oil wells ever since the imposition of the war, and Iran will never give Iraq such an opportunity.

Bushehr Issues Announcement on Oil Pollution

*GF201918 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT
20 Apr 83*

[Text] To be able to prevent the possibility of any oil pollution in the southern waters of our country, an announcement has been issued by the Bushehr propaganda and fishery development center. According to a report by the Central News Unit, in this announcement, all fishing operations out of Bushehr have been asked to report any sightings of oil pollution or dead fish in Iranian waters to the Bushehr propaganda and fishery development center. This center can be reached by Post Office Box 107 or phone no 3459.

We should explain that after the devilish attack of the Ba'athist-Zionist forces of Iraq against the oil wells of our country in

Nowruz and Abuzar fields, large sections of the Persian Gulf have become polluted. In general, the water current has taken the oil toward the Arab countries on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf, especially Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. These countries are facing a shortage of drinking water right now.

According to the announcement by the Bushehr propaganda and fishery development center, the oil slick is still moving toward the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf and up until now there have been no reports of pollution or dead fish in our waters.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets With Judicial Members

*GF200926 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT
20 Apr 83*

[Text] Our correspondent has reported that the shari' amagistrates and the public prosecutor assistants of the Islamic Revolution prosecutor's offices of the special departments to investigate common counterrevolutionary offenses and a number of other personnel of the general prosecutor's office last night met with Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Majlis.

In the meeting, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, while praising the worthy services of the revolution courts, told the audience that the revolution courts have been accepted by the public and no longer need a high profile. You can be assured that society, history, the people, and the supporters of the revolution will not forget the services you rendered, he said.

In this country, those who are against the revolution courts are those who apparently oppose the revolution or do not understand the revolution, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, adding that if 1 day we want to have a real Islamic society, then our courts must be proportional to the Islamic Republic and to operate decisively, speedily, and sincerely. We must not hesitate in this respect but we cannot accept that 10 years later regular justice is secondary and have the revolution courts do the bulk of the work.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the swiftness and decisive action of the judges, saying that justice in the country must be carried out fully and equally.

Esfahan Placed Under 'Red Alert' Conditions

*GF201640 Esfahan Domestic Service in Persian 1618 GMT
20 Apr 83*

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Attention, attention: The warning you are about to hear is the red alert warning which means danger. It means that there is a certain enemy air raid on the way. Go to your shelters. [sound of siren]

Dear listeners, Esfahan is currently under red alert conditions. Note that an enemy attack is certain, go to shelters and maintain calm.